Technical Cybersecurity

The Beginnings: First Malware

1971: Creeper Worm

FIRST COMPUTER WORM

‣ A **worm** is a self-replicating program that moves between hosts; usually using network communication attacking previously uninfected hosts

‣ Written by Bob Thomas, enhanced by Ray Tomlinson

‣ Moves between PDP-10 computers running TENEX via ARPANET

‣ Did not damage computers; taunted users

LEAD TO REAPER

‣ Hunted and eliminated Creeper, by Ray Tomlinson

1978: Animal Trojan

FIRST TROJAN

‣ A **Trojan** is a program that claims to do one thing, but actually does another, more nefarious thing (just like the Greeks in Troy)

‣ Animal was a game that tried to guess an animal the user was thinking of by asking a group of questions, written by John Walker

‣ Installed with *Pervade*, copied *Animal* to user directories

‣ Not malicious, really a stealth installer

1981: Elk Cloner Virus

COMPUTER VIRUS APPEARS IN WESTWORLD

‣ First mainstream mention of concept by Micheal Crichton

ELK CLONER VIRUS

‣ A **virus** is a piece of code that injects self into other programs and can replicate via those programs

‣ Infected Apple DOS 3.3, boot sector virus

‣ Transmitted via floppy disks

‣ Written by Rich Skrenta

How about hacks?